



The Hague Round Table and further OECD- initiatives

Carl-Christian Schmidt*
Fisheries Policies Division
OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate

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* Views expressed are those of the author and may not necessarily represent those of
OECD or its members.

Why The Hague Round Table?

- **Eco-labels becoming a market requirement**
- **Increasing number of label schemes**
- **Globalisation**
- **Stakeholders becoming vocal**
- **Few have looked into the economics of fisheries certification**
- **Sitting on the fence watching developments**
- **But confusion reigns**
- **Demystify fisheries certification**

The Hague Format

- Help establish a comfort zone
- Jointly OECD COFI and FAO organised
- Broad stakeholder representation (retail, processors, producers, buyers, NGOs, eco-label schemes, certification bodies, academia, governments, international organisations)
- Help understand the role – if any – of public authorities

The Content

- **Setting the Scene**
- **Objectives and Principles of Certification**
- **Integrated traceability**
- **Experience with private eco-labels**
- **Key Issues**
- **The Role of the Public Authorities in Eco-labelling**

Key Round Table Outcomes

- Choice editing by retailers/processors
- Certification shifts the burden of proof
- Information asymmetry
- Should governments pay for improvements to management and how to prioritise?
- Legitimacy of labelling schemes
- Are there gold, silver and bronze labels?

Key Round Table Outcomes

- **Equivalency**
- **Participation of developing countries crucial**
- **Paying for certification -- private benefits vs. public management improvements**
- **Incentivise transitional fisheries**
- **Shared definition of “sustainable fisheries” needed**
- **Need for benchmarking**

The OECD COFI Follow-up

- **Draft Inventory of Standards**
- **Overall Report on Fisheries Certification**

Draft Inventory - Structure

Sustainability and Eco-labelling

- International
- National
- Other

Food Quality (Food safety and hygiene)

- International
- National
- Other

Legality

- International
- National
- Other

Individual Buyer Specifications

Truth in Advertising

Returned Questionnaires

Accessibility:
is the information relevant for
the public domain

Draft Final Report - Outline

1. FRONT MATTERS

Executive summary

Introduction [Definition of the issue,
behavioural change]

Key concepts

Approach

2. ECONOMICS OF STANDARDS

1. **Privately-initiated
standards**

2. **Government-initiated
standards**

3. UNIFYING ISSUES

Truth and trust = acceptance

Integrated traceability

Policy coherence for development

4. CONCLUSIONS: Messages to policy makers

Annexes:

- **Key definitions**
- **Inventory-based information on
standard categories**

The OECD COFI Follow-up



Fisheries Policies, OECD Trade and Agriculture



www.oecd.org/fisheries



Carl-Christian. Schmidt@OECD.org

tad.contact@oecd.org